

VISIONAIRE 40
DAVID SIMS ROSES









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These roses grow outside the main entrance of a school typical of many built in the 1970s, when light industry replaced agriculture and the new towns of England were created. The school is a jumble of boxes, intended to withstand the momentum of the school's routine. But the interior, with its petty vandalism, knocks, and dents disrespects the architect's blueprint and expresses the events and lives within the place. I was a pupil at the school where these roses grow. But I entered and left by the side doors and, perhaps understandably, failed to notice the roses until I went back years later. I felt that the rough pruning and the tangles of the rose bushes echoed the consequences of the school, prophesying how the lives of its pupils would develop. The fragile and temporal qualities of flowers are well used as a visual metaphor for youth. And the rose especially is often symbolised at a state of perfection—straight-stemmed, uncrushed. But when I look at these roses close up and trace their own knocks and dents, I find a greater beauty and a complexity in their imperfections. The roses represent for me a very definite point in life and a state of mind.

DAVID SIMS















































































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